

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 IO-13
/080 W

-----123974 011500Z /46

O R 011438Z MAY 78 ZFF 4
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8182
USMISSION USBERLIN NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 08043

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, BQG, AKG
SUBJECT: STATEMENTS ON HUEBNER CASE AND REPLY TO
SOVIETS ON FEDERAL ACTIVITIES AND LANDTAG
MEETINGS IN BERLIN

REFS: (A) STATE 109567 (B) BONN 7981 (C) BONN 7509
(D) STATE 108412 (E) BONN 7934

SUMMARY

FINAL APPROVAL OF DEMARCHE TO SOVIETS AND PRESS
STATEMENT ON NICO HUEBNER CASE HAS BEEN REACHED, FOR
DELIVERY BY USBER (AS ALLIED CHAIRMAN IN BERLIN FOR THE
MONTH OF MAY), ON MAY 2. IN ADDITION, THE BONN GROUP
RECOMMENDS THAT THE REPLY TO THE SOVIET PROTEST ON
FEDERAL ACTIVITIES AND THE ORAL REPLY TO THE SOVIET PROTEST ON
THE MEETING OF LANDTAG PRESIDENTS IN BERLIN BE DELIVERED
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AT THE SAME TIME. ACTION REQUESTED: SEE PARAGRAPH 9.
END SUMMARY

1. AT A BONN GROUP MEETING ON APRIL 30, THE UK REP
(EYERS) SAID HE HAD NEW INSTRUCTIONS WHICH WOULD PERMIT
A DEMARCHE TO THE SOVIETS UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.
EYERS SAID THAT THE FCO DID NOT WANT THE DEMARCHE MADE

WHILE THE BRITISH ARE STILL IN THE CHAIR IN BERLIN, BUT THIS POSED NO PROBLEM SINCE MAY IS AMERICAN MONTH. HE SAID THAT HE WAS ASKED TO AGREE AGAIN TO THE UK PROPOSAL FOR A PRESS LINE (PARAGRAPH 3, REF B) AND TO INSIST THAT THE "DEFENSIVE LINE" (REF C, PARAGRAPH 4) BE INCORPORATED IN THE PRESS STATEMENT ITSELF ALTHOUGH THE FCO DID NOT INSIST ON THE EXACT TEXT OF THE STATEMENT PREVIOUSLY AGREED AD REF. FINALLY, THE FCO HAD ONE MINOR CHANGE TO PROPOSE IN THE TEXT OF THE DEMARCHE ITSELF IN ORDER TO MAKE THE DEMARCHE LESS POINTED.

2. THE US REP READ THE DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS ON THE UK PROPOSAL FOR A PRESS LINE AND WAS SUPPORTED BY THE FRENCH REP (RICHARD) AND THE FRG REP (VON RICHTHOFEN) EYERS SAID THAT IN THE LIGHT OF THIS, HE WAS AUTHORIZED TO DROP THE PROPOSAL.

3. THE US REP SOUGHT TO HAVE THE PRESS LINE REFER MORE SPECIFICALLY TO THE DEMARCHE TO THE SOVIETS. EYERS SAID THAT HE HAD REPORTED THE DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS TO THE FCO BUT HAD RECEIVED NO SPECIFIC REACTION TO THEM. HOWEVER, HE SAID IT EMERGED FROM THE FCO'S GENERAL DISLIKE FOR A DEMARCHE TO THE SOVIETS THAT IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN PROMPT FCO AGREEMENT, ESPECIALLY SINCE MAY 1 IS A HOLIDAY IN THE UK, TO A MORE EXPLICIT REFERENCE. VON RICHTHOFEN SAID CONFIDENTIAL

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THE FRG WOULD PREFER THE US SUGGESTION BUT THAT IT WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAT THE DEMARCHE, AND PUBLIC STATEMENT, BE MADE BEFORE THE BREZHNEV VISIT. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE AGREED TO DROP THE REQUEST.

4. THE REVISED PRESS STATEMENT, AS AGREED APRIL 30, IS AS FOLLOWS:

THE ALLIED PRESS SPOKESMAN MADE CLEAR THE POSITION OF THE THREE POWERS ON 22-23 MARCH. AS HE SAID, THE ALLIED POSITION ON THE DEMILITARIZED STATUS OF BERLIN IS WELL KNOWN AND HAS BEEN REPEATED OFTEN. THE QUADRIPARTITE LEGISLATION ON DEMILITARIZATION APPLIES TO THE WHOLE OF BERLIN. THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES ARE IN NO DOUBT THAT THE ALLIED POSITION REMAINS UNCHANGED. WE HAVE KNOWN FOR 30 YEARS THAT, DESPITE OUR EFFORTS, OWING TO SOVIET OBSTRUCTION IT IS ONLY POSSIBLE FOR THE ALLIED KOMMANDATURA TO CARRY OUT ITS DECISIONS IN THE WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN. END TEXT.

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

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6. THE DEPARTMENT WILL NOTE THAT THE LAST PART OF THE PRESS STATEMENT INCORPORATES THE REFERENCE TO "EFFORTS" AS THE FRENCH WANTED. RICHARD SAID THIS TEXT WAS ACCEPTABLE AND WITHIN HIS INSTRUCTIONS. HAD WE NOT INCORPORATED THIS REFERENCE, RICHARD WOULD HAVE HAD TO SEEK NEW INSTRUCTIONS AND IT IS UNLIKELY THAT AGREEMENT COULD HAVE BEEN REACHED IN THE TIME REMAINING. SINCE THE LAST SENTENCE OF THE PRESS STATEMENT IS NEW (EYERS HAD APPARENTLY NOT REPORTED THE TEXT IN PARAGRAPH 16 OF REF B), EYERS WAS REQUIRED TO OBTAIN THE FCO'S APPROVAL FOR IT. HE INFORMED US MAY 1 OF THIS APPROVAL.

7. SINCE BREZHNEV ARRIVES ON MAY 4, IT WAS AGREED THAT THE DEMARCHE SHOULD BE MADE ON MAY 2 AND THE STATEMENT GIVEN TO ONE OR MORE JOURNALISTS (IN ANSWER TO QUESTION WHICH WE ASSUME USBER CAN INSPIRE) THE SAME DAY. THIS WILL
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PRESUMABLY RESULT IN REPORTS IN THE PRESS ON MAY 3. VON RICHTHOFEN SAID IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE IF THE PRESS REPORTS APPEARED THE SAME DAY BREZHNEV ARRIVED. THE FCO AND QUAI ARE NOT PREPARED TO AGREE TO THE PRESS SPOKESMAN GOING BEYOND THE PREPARED STATEMENT.

8. THE CONSENSUS WAS THAT THERE WOULD BE AN ADVANTAGE TO DELIVERING THE REPLY (REF D AND PREVIOUS) TO THE SOVIET PROTEST ON FEDERAL ACTIVITIES IN BERLIN AT THE SAME TIME THE DEMARCHE IS MADE ON THE HUEBNER CASE. THIS REPLY HAS BEEN APPROVED BY ALL CAPITALS. FOR THIS PURPOSE, HOWEVER, APPROVAL IS REQUIRED BY THE QUAI AND THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ORAL STATEMENT (REF E), WITH A MINOR AMENDMENT SET OUT BELOW, IN REPLY TO THE SOVIET PROTEST ON THE LANDTAG PRESIDENTS MEETINGS.

THE MINOR AMENDMENT, WHICH HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE UK AND FRG, IS TO DELETE THE WORD "FRG" SINCE BERLIN WAS REPRESENTED AT THE MEETING. RICHARD SUGGESTED THE AMENDMENT AND HOPES TO BE ABLE TO OBTAIN THE QUAI'S APPROVAL BY TELEPHONE THE MORNING OF MAY 2. WE WILL INFORM USBER AS SOON AS WE KNOW WHETHER THIS APPROVAL HAS BEEN OBTAINED.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: A. FOR DEPARTMENT: APPROVAL OF TEXT IN REF E, WITH DELETION OF "FRG," AND APPROVAL OF METHOD OF DELIVERY OF REPLIES TO SOVIET PROTESTS ON FEDERAL ACTIVITIES AND LANDTAG MEETINGS.

B. FOR USBER: DELIVERY OF DEMARCHE AND PRESS STATEMENT ON THE HUEBNER CASE AND, SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION OF THE DEPARTMENT'S AND THE QUAI'S APPROVAL, DELIVERY OF THE REPLIES TO THE SOVIET PROTESTS ON FEDERAL ACTIVITIES AND LANDTAG MEETINGS.

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